

# Fishery Management in the Hawaiian Islands



**1909** President Roosevelt designated the NWHI as the Hawaiian Islands Reservation (now Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge) to protect seabirds.

**1983** WPRFMC Precious Corals Fishery Management Plan (FMP) prohibited bottom trawling, dredging and other destructive and non-selective gear.

**1983** WPRFMC Crustaceans FMP set trap design rules, gear bans, and federal permit requirements to protect monk seals. In 1986, lobster fishing was closed within 20 nm of Laysan Island and in waters shallower than 10 fathoms.

**1986** WPRFMC Bottomfish FMP banned destructive gear (trawls, gillnets, explosives, poisons). Closed Hancock Seamount to rebuild armor-head due to overfishing by foreign vessels. 1988 amendment created Nation's first limited-entry program for NWHI bottomfishing.

**1987** WPRFMC Pelagic FMP prohibited drift gillnet gear within U.S. EEZ.

**1988** USFWS established Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge to protect seabird nesting habitat and marine biodiversity.

**1988** WPRFMC established bottomfish limited-access system for Ho'omalū Zone; protected species workshop required.

**1991-1994** WPRFMC implemented limited-entry, permits, reporting, vessel monitoring system and observers for Hawai'i longline fishery. Established 25-75 nm exclusion zone around MHI and 50 nm protected species zone in NWHI.

**1992** WPRFMC established limited-entry program for crustacean fishery.

**1996** WPRFMC established program to reduce albatross bycatch in Hawai'i longline fishery.

**1999** WPRFMC Community Development Program reserved 20% of Mau Zone bottomfish permits for eligible Native Hawaiian fishermen.

**2000** Executive Orders 13178 & 13196 established NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve from 0-50 nm offshore. Most fishing allowed to continue at current levels.

**2001** WPRFMC Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP, the first U.S. ecosystem-based plan, prohibited destructive and non-selective fishing gear.

**2002** WPRFMC seabird bycatch mitigation cut interactions with Hawai'i longline fishery by over 90%. Additional measures like side setting were added in 2006.

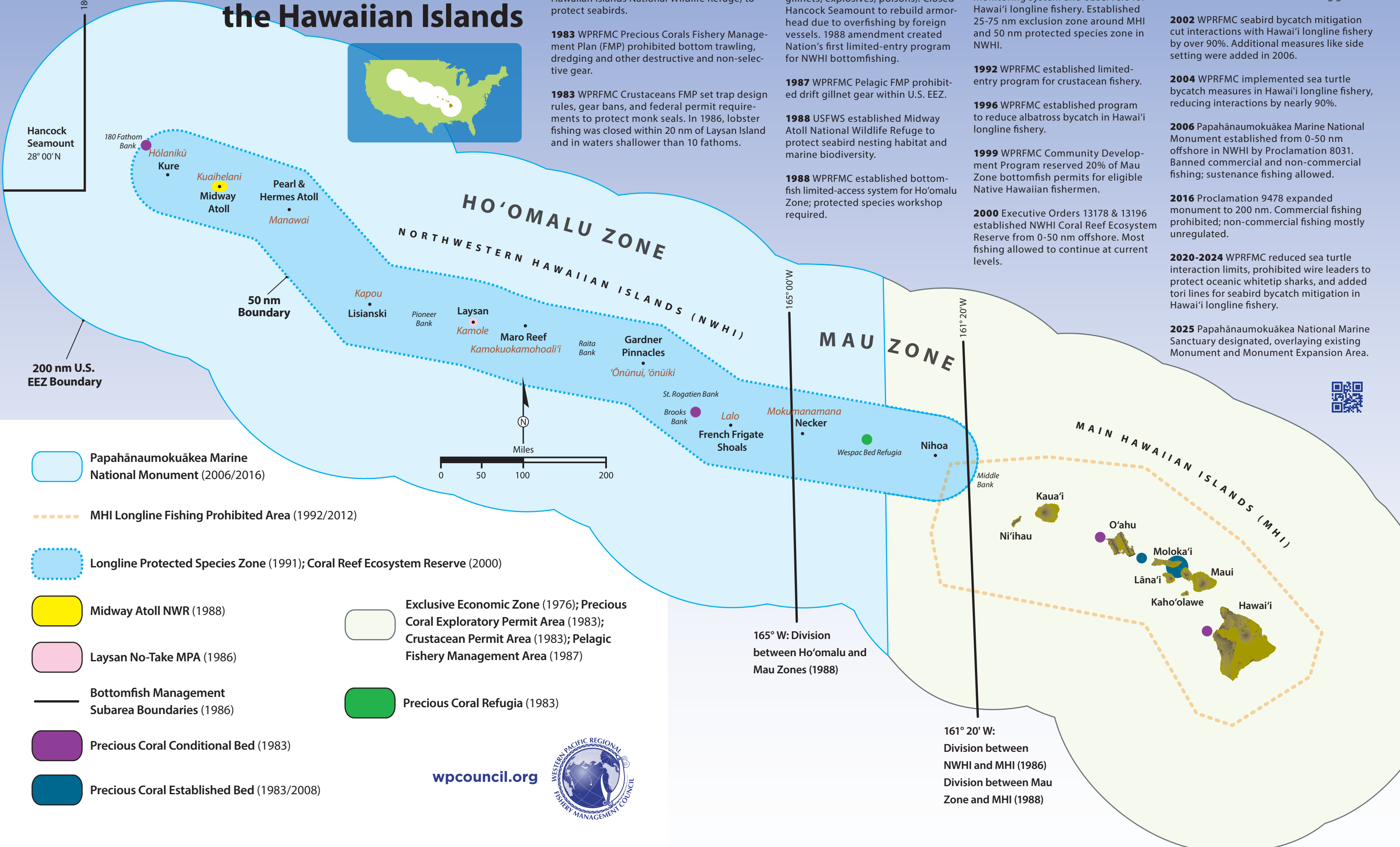
**2004** WPRFMC implemented sea turtle bycatch measures in Hawai'i longline fishery, reducing interactions by nearly 90%.

**2006** Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument established from 0-50 nm offshore in NWHI by Proclamation 8031. Banned commercial and non-commercial fishing; sustenance fishing allowed.

**2016** Proclamation 9478 expanded monument to 200 nm. Commercial fishing prohibited; non-commercial fishing mostly unregulated.

**2020-2024** WPRFMC reduced sea turtle interaction limits, prohibited wire leaders to protect oceanic whitetip sharks, and added tori lines for seabird bycatch mitigation in Hawai'i longline fishery.

**2025** Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary designated, overlaying existing Monument and Monument Expansion Area.



- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (2006/2016)
- MHI Longline Fishing Prohibited Area (1992/2012)
- Longline Protected Species Zone (1991); Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (2000)
- Midway Atoll NWR (1988)
- Laysan No-Take MPA (1986)
- Bottomfish Management Subarea Boundaries (1986)
- Precious Coral Conditional Bed (1983)
- Precious Coral Established Bed (1983/2008)

- Exclusive Economic Zone (1976); Precious Coral Exploratory Permit Area (1983); Crustacean Permit Area (1983); Pelagic Fishery Management Area (1987)
- Precious Coral Refugia (1983)

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